



Grain Transportation Report

*A weekly publication of the
Transportation and Marketing Programs/Transportation Services Branch
www.ams.usda.gov/tmdtsb/grain*

Mar. 24, 2005

Contents

Grain Transportation Indicators

Rail Transportation

Barge Transportation

Truck Transportation

Grain Exports

Ocean Transportation

Contacts and Links

Subscription Information

**The next
release is
Mar. 31, '05**

Mar. 30-Apr.1, '05	National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) 109 th Annual Convention	San Diego, CA	202-289-0873 info@ngfa.org
Apr. 7-8, '05	Joint GAFTA/UGA Kiev International Grain Conference	Kiev, Ukraine	www.gafta.com
Apr. 18-19, '05	The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) 2nd Annual Spring Forum	Arlington, VA	703-524-5011
Apr. 19-22, '05	The American Waterways Operations (AWO) Spring Convention	Arlington, VA	703-841-9300
Apr. 20-22, '05	Inland Rivers, Ports & Terminals Annual Conference	New Orleans, LA	www.irpt.net
Apr. 25-26, '05	Professional Ethanol Management Conference	San Francisco, CA	410-442-5757
Apr. 28-29, '05	National Association of Maritime Organizations (NAMO) Spring Meeting	Washington, DC	757-622-2639
Apr. 28-29, '05	2nd Annual U.S. Grain and Oilseed Transportation Seminar, Near- & Long-Term Outlooks	Memphis, TN	901-766-4513
May 22-24, '05	North American Rail Shippers Association Annual Meeting	San Francisco, CA	800-697-3103
May 22-26, '05	Wheat Quality Conference	Manhattan, KS	785-776-2703 785-532-7022
May 23-24, '05	U.S. Grains Council Board of Directors' Meeting	Spokane, WA	www.grains.org
June 12-14, '05	15th Annual Ethanol Producers and Consumers Conference	Cody, WY	406-785-3722
June 16-25, '05	122nd Annual American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) Convention	Seattle, WA	703-837-8140
June 28-July 1, '05	21st Annual International Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Expo	Kansas City, MO	719-942-4353
Sept. 14-16, '05	66th Annual American Trucking Association (ATA) Convention and Trade Show	Missoula, MT	406-442-6600
Sept. 19-21, '05	2005 American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) Expo	Kansas City, MO	703-524-0810
Nov. 12-16, '05	The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) 98th Annual Mtg. and Transcomp	Anaheim, CA	703-524-5011

Grain Transportation Indicators

Table 1--Grain transport cost indicators*

	Truck	Rail	Barge	Ocean	
Week ending				Gulf	Pacific
03/23/05	151	144	139	287	275
Compared with last week	↑	↑	↓	↑	↓

*Indicator: Base year 2000 = 100; Weekly updates include truck = diesel (\$/gallon); rail = nearby secondary rail market (\$/car);

barge = spot Illinois River basis (index = percent of tariff rate); and ocean = routes to Japan (\$/metric ton)

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 2--Market update: U.S. origins to export position price spreads (\$/bushel)

Commodity	Origin--destination	3/18/2005	3/11/2005
Corn	IL--Gulf	-0.58	-0.62
Corn	NE--Gulf	-0.68	-0.68
Soybean	IA--Gulf	-0.85	-0.77
HRW	KS--Gulf	-0.76	-0.90
HRS	ND--Portland	-1.44	-1.34

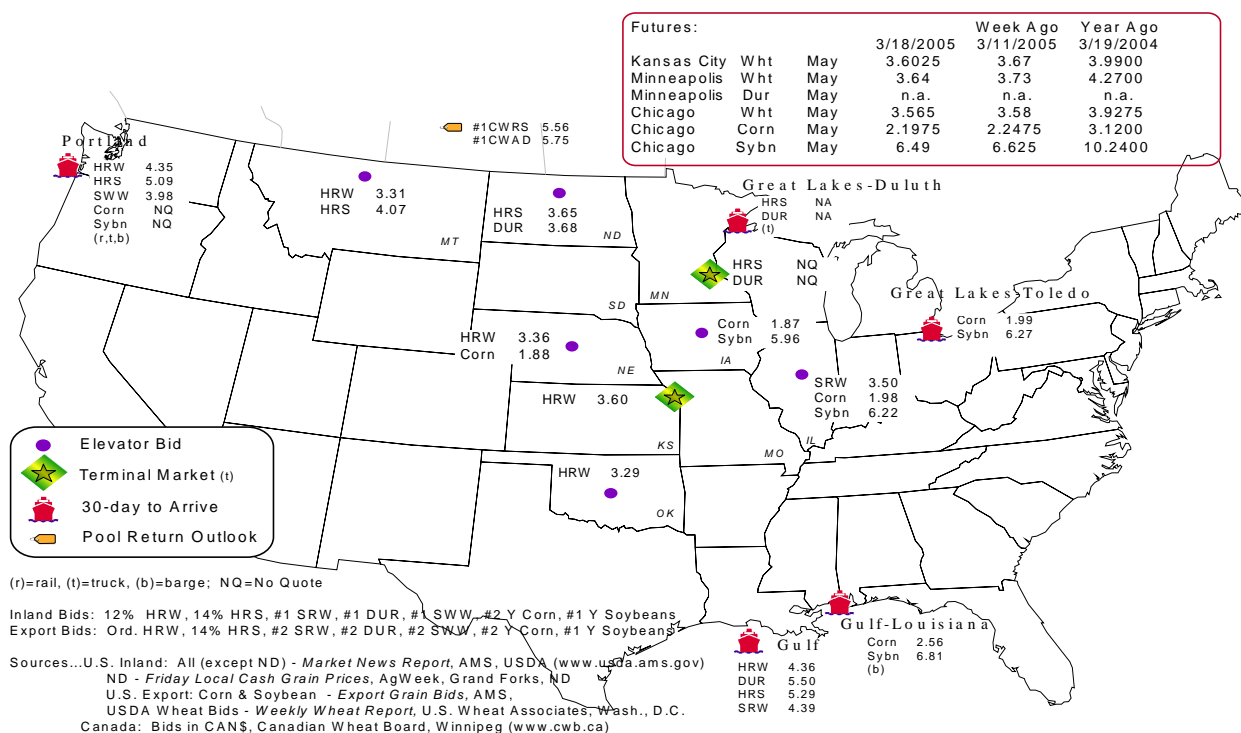
Note: nq = no quote

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **grain bid summary** illustrates the market relationships for commodities. Positive and negative adjustments in differential between terminal and futures markets, and the relationship to inland market points, are indicators of changes in fundamental market supply and demand. The map may be used to monitor market and time differentials.

Figure 1

Grain bid summary



Rail Transportation

Table 3--Rail deliveries to port (carloads)*

Week ending	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Cross-Border Mexico	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf	Total
03/16/2005 ^p	173	2,094	1,415	5,013	532	9,227
3/09/2005 ^r	447	2,173	2,177	5,397	461	10,655
2005 YTD	4,340	20,111	17,136	52,011	5,591	99,189
2004 YTD	2,359	28,105	9,138	47,359	3,205	90,166
2005 as % of 2004	184	72	188	110	174	110
Total 2004	10,475	92,073	67,992	209,625	10,986	391,151
Total 2003**	14,843	88,194	48,805	157,125	20,509	329,476

(*) Incomplete Data; as of 9/22/04, Cross-Border movements included; (**) Excludes 53rd week; YTD = year-to-date; p = preliminary data;

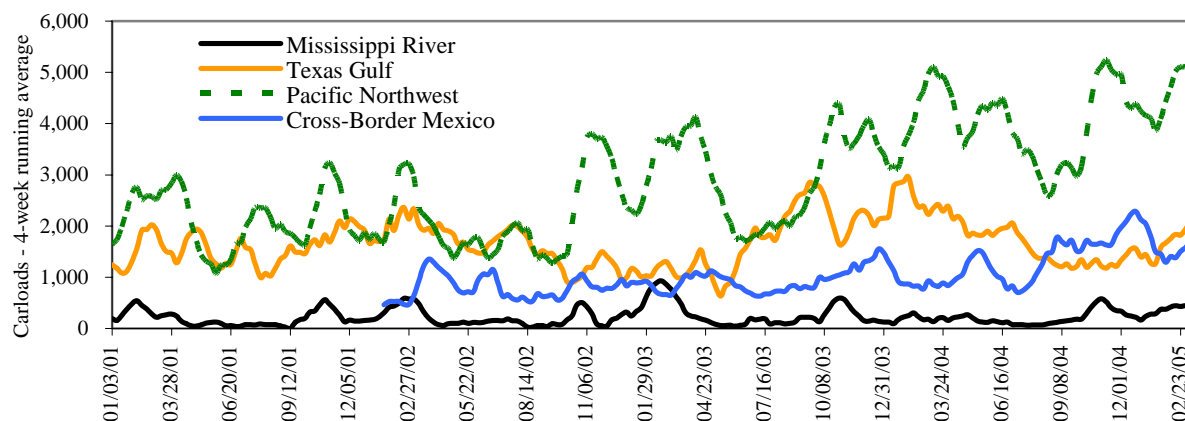
r = revised data

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Railroads originate approximately 40 percent of U.S. grain shipments. Trends in these loadings are indicative of market conditions and expectations.

Figure 2

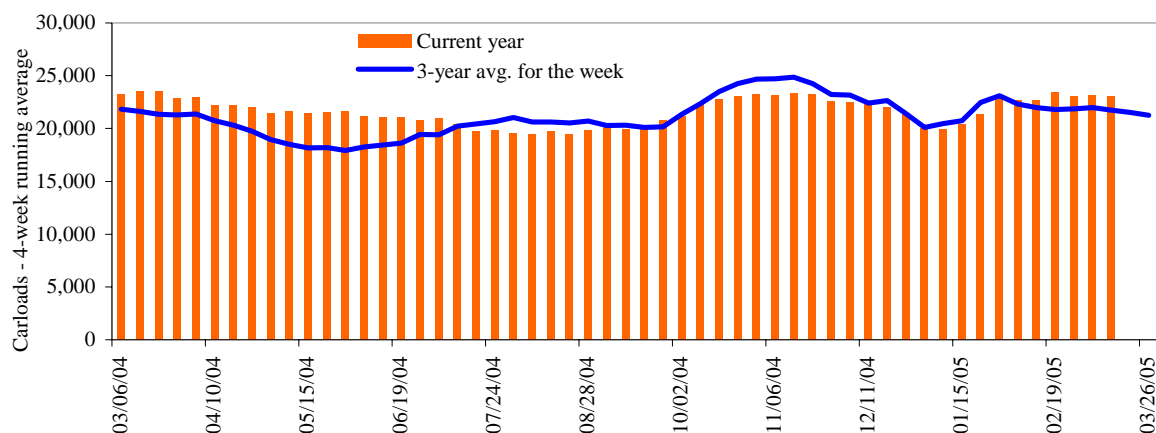
Rail deliveries to port



Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 3

Total weekly U.S. grain car loadings for Class I railroads



Source: Association of American Railroads

Table 4--Class I rail carrier grain car bulletin (grain carloads originated)

Week ending	East		West			U.S. total	Canada	
	CSXT	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP		CN	CP
03/12/05	3,007	3,210	10,151	536	6,428	23,332	3,900	3,795
This week last year	3,601	3,040	9,073	397	7,502	23,613	5,253	2,996
2005 YTD	31,205	34,291	98,063	6,861	59,006	229,426	45,474	40,524
2004 YTD	30,398	34,765	94,486	5,897	67,663	233,209	46,240	33,982
2005 as % of 2004	103	99	104	116	87	98	98	119
Total 2004	142,206	169,650	458,587	27,618	327,510	1,125,571	237,664	210,060

Source: Association of American Railroads (www.aar.org); YTD = year-to-date

Table 5--Rail car auction offerings, week ending 3/19/05 (\$/car)*

Delivery for:	Apr. 05	May-05	Jun. 05
BNSF ¹			
COT/N. grain	no offer	no offer	\$26
COT/S. grain	no offer	no offer	\$8
UP ²			
GCAS/Region 1	no offer	no offer	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	no offer	no offer	no offer

*Average premium/discount to tariff, last auction

¹BNSF - COT = Certificate of Transportation

N includes: ID, MN, MT, ND, OR, SD, WA, WI, WY, and Manitoba, Canada.

S includes: CO, IA, IL, KS, MO, NE, OK, TX, NM, AZ, CA, UT, and NV.

²UP - GCAS = Grain Car Allocation System

Region 1 includes: AR, IL, LA, MO, NM, OK, TX, WI, and Duluth, MN.

Region 2 includes: CO, IA, KS, MN, NE, WY, and Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO.

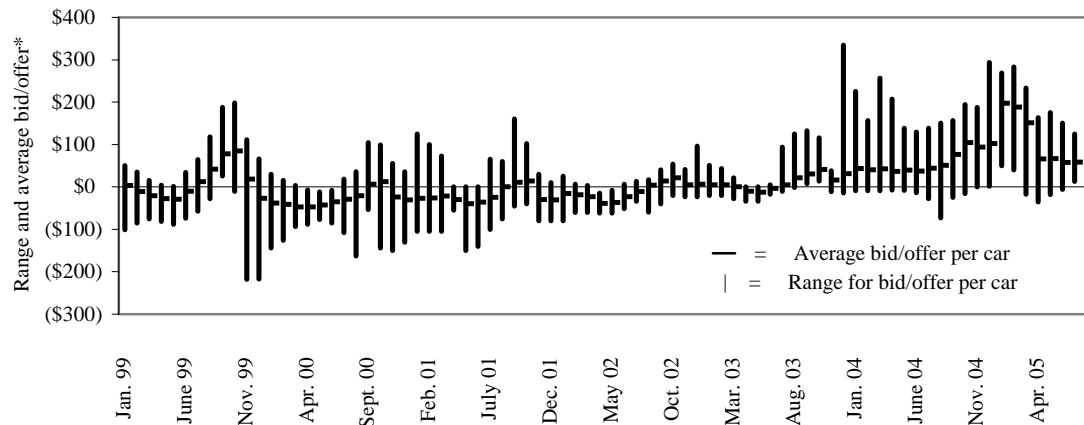
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Rail service may be ordered directly from the railroad via **auction** for guaranteed service or tariff for nonguaranteed service or through the secondary market.

The **secondary rail market** information reflects trade values for service that was originally purchased from the railroad carrier as some form of guaranteed freight. The **auction and secondary rail** values are indicators of rail service quality and demand/supply.

Figure 4

Secondary rail car market, delivery month-year



*up to 6 months of trading

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Average bid/offer is the simple average of all the weekly bids/offers over the entire period (up to 6 months) for guaranteed railcars that are traded for delivery in a particular month.

Range for bid/offer shows the range of average weekly bids/offers over the entire period (up to 6 months) for guaranteed railcars that are traded for delivery in a particular month.

Table 6--Weekly secondary rail car market, week ending 3/19/05 (\$/car)*

	Delivery period			
	Apr. 05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05
BNSF-GF	\$133	\$43	\$36	\$49
Change from last week	\$146	\$53	\$42	\$36
UP-Pool	-\$35	-\$18	\$0	\$43
Change from last week	-\$7	\$0	\$0	\$5

*Average premium/discount to tariff, \$/car-last week

Note: Bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices,

Missing value = no bid quoted; GF = guaranteed freight; Pool = guaranteed pool

Sources: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Data from Atwood/ConAgra, Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.

Table 7--Tariff rail rates for unit and shuttle train shipments*

Effective date:

3/7/2005

	Origin region	Destination region	Rate/car	Rate/metric ton	Rate/bushel**
<u>Unit train*</u>					
Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,420	\$26.68	\$0.73
	Kansas City, MO	Galveston, TX	\$1,920	\$21.16	\$0.58
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,148	\$45.72	\$1.24
	St. Louis, MO	Houston, TX	\$2,145	\$23.64	\$0.64
	Chicago, IL	Albany, NY	\$1,861	\$20.51	\$0.56
	Chicago, IL	Richmond, VA	\$2,002	\$22.07	\$0.60
Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,600	\$39.68	\$1.01
	Chicago, IL	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,510	\$27.67	\$0.70
	Council Bluffs, IA	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,370	\$26.12	\$0.66
	Evansville, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$1,791	\$19.74	\$0.50
	Council Bluffs, IA	Stockton, CA	\$3,606	\$39.75	\$1.01
	Kansas City, MO	Dalhart, TX	\$1,965	\$21.66	\$0.55
Soybeans	Columbus, OH	Raleigh, NC	\$1,700	\$18.74	\$0.48
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,610	\$39.79	\$1.08
	Chicago, IL	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,355	\$25.96	\$0.71
	Council Bluffs, IA	Baton Rouge, LA	\$2,215	\$24.42	\$0.66
	Evansville, IN	Raleigh, NC	\$1,791	\$19.74	\$0.54
	Chicago, IL	Raleigh, NC	\$2,391	\$26.36	\$0.72
<u>Shuttle Train</u>					
Wheat	St. Louis, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,895	\$20.89	\$0.57
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,993	\$44.01	\$1.20
Corn	Fremont, NE	Houston, TX	\$2,665	\$29.38	\$0.75
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,450	\$38.03	\$0.97
Soybeans	Council Bluffs, IA	Houston, TX	\$2,785	\$30.70	\$0.84
	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,410	\$37.59	\$1.02

*A unit train refers to shipments of at least 52 cars. Shuttle train rates are available for qualified shipments of more than 100 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

**Approximate load per car = 100 short tons: corn 56 lbs./bu., wheat & soybeans 60 lbs./bu.

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.cpr.ca, www.csx.com, www.uprr.com

Table 8--Tariff rail rates for U.S. bulk grain shipments to Mexico

Effective date:						
3/7/2005	Origin state	Border crossing region	Train size	Rate/car ¹	Rate/metric ton	Rate/bushel**
Wheat	KS	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,742	\$28.02	\$0.76
	ND	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$5,426	\$55.44	\$1.51
	OK	El Paso, TX	Shuttle	\$2,155	\$22.02	\$0.60
	OK	El Paso, TX	Shuttle	\$2,241	\$22.90	\$0.62
	AR	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$2,165	\$22.12	\$0.60
	IL	Laredo, TX	Shuttle	\$2,970	\$30.35	\$0.83
	MT	Laredo, TX	Shuttle	\$5,714*	\$58.38	\$1.59
	TX	Laredo, TX	Shuttle	\$1,598*	\$16.33	\$0.44
	MO	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$2,678*	\$27.36	\$0.74
	WI	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$3,188	\$32.57	\$0.89
Corn	NE	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,995	\$30.60	\$0.78
	NE	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$3,429*	\$35.04	\$0.89
	IA	Eagle Pass, TX	Unit	\$3,225	\$32.95	\$0.84
	MO	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$2,932*	\$29.96	\$0.76
	NE	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$3,332*	\$34.05	\$0.86
	IA	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$3,225*	\$32.95	\$0.84
Soybean	IA	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,880	\$29.43	\$0.80
	MN	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$3,176	\$32.45	\$0.88
	NE	Brownsville, TX	Shuttle	\$2,688	\$27.47	\$0.75
	NE	Eagle Pass, TX	Shuttle	\$2,765	\$28.25	\$0.77
	IA	Laredo, TX	Unit	\$2,918*	\$29.82	\$0.81

A unit train refers to shipments of at least 52 cars. Shuttle train are available for qualified shipments of more than 100 cars that meet railroad efficiency requirements.

¹Rates are based upon published tariff rates for high-capacity rail cars.

*High-capacity rate not available, rate estimated using published low-capacity tariff rate x 1.08

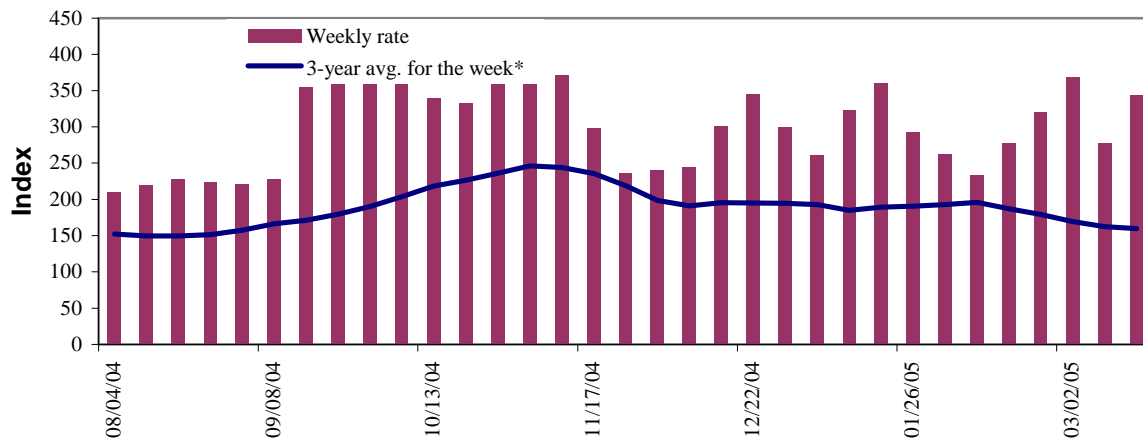
**Approximate load per car = 97.87 metric tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Sources: www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com

Barge Transportation

Figure 5

Illinois River barge rate index - quotes



Note: Index = percent of tariff rate; *4-week moving average

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **Illinois River barge rate index** averaged 183 percent of the **benchmark tariff rates** between 1999 and 2001, based on weekly market quotes. The **index**, along with **rate quotes** and **futures market bids** are indicators of grain transport supply and demand.

Table 9--Barge rate quotes: southbound barge freight

Location	3/16/2005	3/9/2005	Apr '05	June '05
Twin Cities	n/a	n/a	317	293
Mid-Mississippi	350	304	289	272
Illinois River	344	278	278	262
St. Louis	308	247	251	230
Lower Ohio	343	272	270	239
Cairo-Memphis	287	237	237	213

Index = percent of tariff, based on 1976 tariff benchmark rate

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 6

Benchmark tariff rates

Calculating barge rate per ton:

(Index * 1976 tariff benchmark rate per ton)/100

Select applicable index from market quotes included in tables on this page. The 1976 benchmark rates per ton are provided in map (see figure 6).

Note: The Illinois barge rate is for Beardstown, IL, La Grange Lock & Dam (L&D 8).

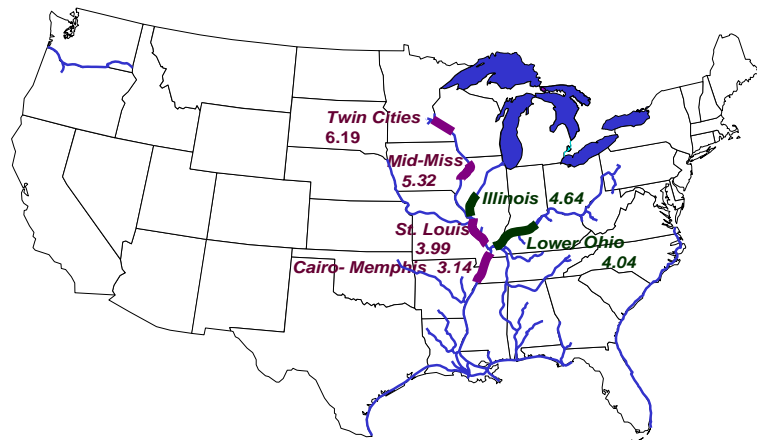
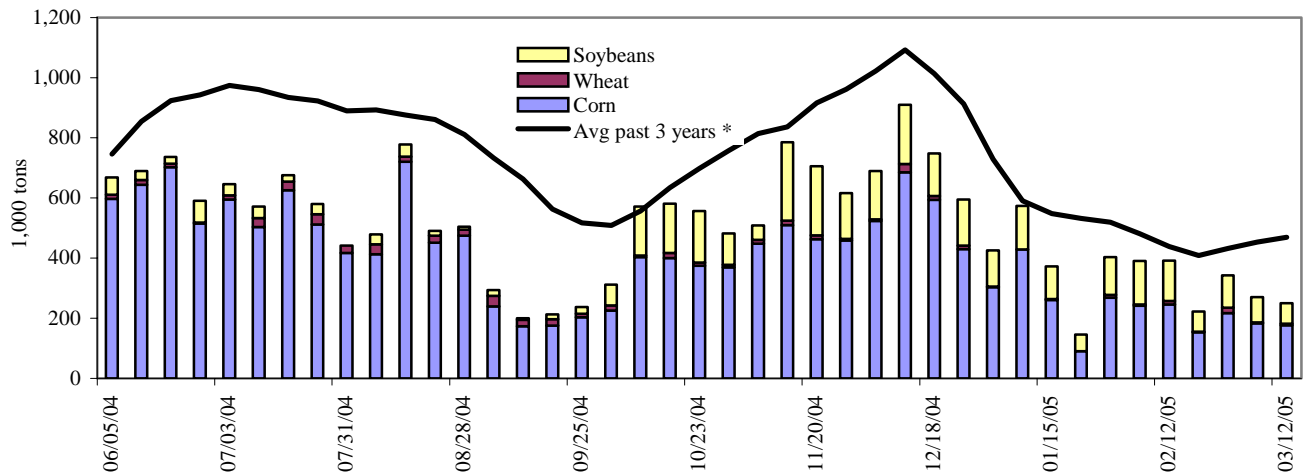


Figure 7

Barge movements on the Mississippi River (Locks 27 - Granite City, IL)

* 4-week moving average

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 10--Barge grain movements (1,000 tons)

Week ending 3/12/2005	Corn	Wheat	Soybean	Other	Total
Mississippi River					
Rock Island, IL (L15)	15	0	0	0	15
Winfield, MO (L25)	8	0	0	0	8
Alton, IL (L26)	180	5	68	0	253
Granite City, IL (L27)	177	5	68	0	250
Illinois River (L8)	156	5	40	0	201
Ohio River (L52)	85	8	32	6	131
Arkansas River (L1)	0	11	10	0	22
2005 YTD	3,319	277	1,842	162	5,601
2004 YTD	4,276	476	1,378	238	6,368
2005 as % of 2004 YTD	78	58	134	68	88
Total 2004	26,235	2,701	6,784	843	36,563

YTD (year-to-date) and calendar year total includes Miss/27, Ohio/52, and Ark/1.

"Other" refers to oats, barley, sorghum, and rye.

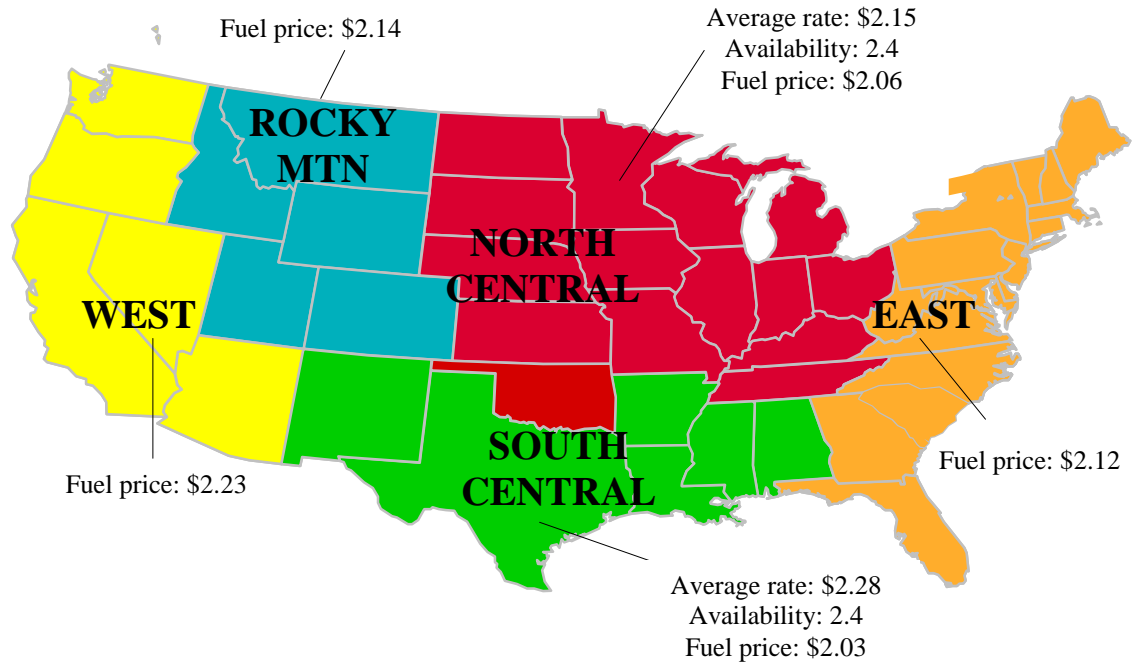
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (www.mvr.usace.army.mil/mvrimi/omni/webtrpts/default.asp)

Note: Total may not add exactly, due to rounding

Truck Transportation

Figure 8

U.S. grain truck market advisory, 4th quarter 2004*



*Average rate per loaded mile, based on truck rates for trips of 25, 100, and 200 miles

Note: Fuel prices are a quarterly average (unit per gallon)

Fuel price data source: Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, www.eia.doe.gov

Table 11--U.S. grain truck market overview, 4th quarter 2004

Region/commodity*	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	Truck availability	Truck activity	Future truck activity
	Rate per mile			Rating compared to same quarter last year		
				1=Very easy to 5=Very difficult	1=Much lower to 5=Much higher	
National average¹	2.89	1.94	1.75	2.5	3.2	2.9
North Central region²	2.75	1.97	1.74	2.4	3.5	3.0
Corn	3.03	1.95	1.88	2.1	3.6	3.0
Wheat	2.27	2.05	1.67	2.6	3.0	2.8
Soybean	2.94	1.88	1.97	1.9	3.4	2.8
South Central region²	3.03	1.95	1.86	2.4	2.6	2.3
Corn	3.06	1.97	1.82	2.3	2.5	2.3
Wheat	2.75	1.85	1.78	2.3	3.0	2.5
Soybean	3.39	2.21	2.11	1.5	2.3	2.3

Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lb weight limit

*Commodity averages based on truck rates for top producing states based on National Agricultural Statistics Service/USDA

¹National average includes: AR, CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MN, MS, ND, NE, OH, OK, OR, SD, TX, and WA.

²Commodity rates per mile include the average of the top 3 producing states within the region.

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

The **weekly diesel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for truck grain movements, accounting for 37 percent of the estimated variable cost.

Table 12--Retail on-highway diesel prices*, week ending 03/21/05 (US\$/gallon)

Region	Location	Price	Change from	
			Week ago	Year ago
I	East Coast	2.245	0.048	0.602
	New England	2.355	0.035	0.595
	Central Atlantic	2.358	0.049	0.622
	Lower Atlantic	2.186	0.049	0.593
II	Midwest	2.196	0.056	0.581
III	Gulf Coast	2.180	0.050	0.593
IV	Rocky Mountain	2.313	0.053	0.643
V	West Coast	2.471	0.029	0.676
	California	2.482	0.064	0.628
Total	U.S.	2.244	0.050	0.603

*Diesel fuel prices include all taxes.

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy (www.eia.doe.gov)

Grain Exports

Table 13--U.S. export balances (1,000 metric tons)

Week ending 1/	Wheat						Corn	Soybeans	Total
	HRW	SRW	HRS	SWW	DUR	All wheat			
3/10/2005	1,572	268	1,536	612	79	4,068	7,002	3,241	14,311
This week year ago	2,191	837	1,309	909	142	5,388	8,707	2,525	16,620
Cumulative exports-crop year 2/									
2004/05 YTD	7,518	2,907	6,142	3,997	527	21,092	24,256	23,168	68,516
2003/04 YTD	9,997	2,970	5,236	3,928	833	22,963	25,995	20,533	69,491
2004/05 as % of 2003/04	75	98	117	102	63	92	93	113	99
2003/04 Total	12,697	3,785	6,928	4,889	1,053	29,353	47,704	24,102	101,159
2002/03 Total	6,896	2,899	6,645	3,517	720	20,677	39,646	28,908	89,231

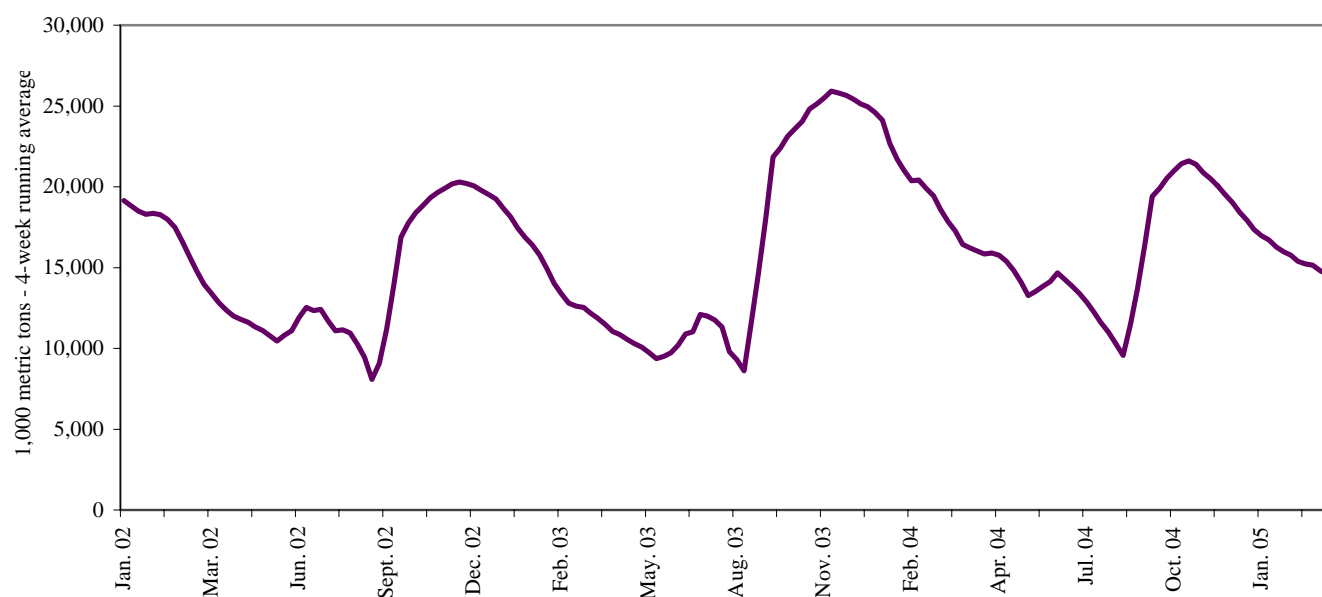
Note: YTD = year-to-date. Crop year: wheat = 6/01-5/31, corn & soybeans = 9/01-8/31, 1/ = Current outstanding unshipped export sales to date

2/ = New crop year in effect for corn and soybean sales

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA (www.fas.usda.gov)

Figure 9

U.S. grain, unshipped export balance, including wheat, corn, and soybean sales



Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA (www.fas.usda.gov)

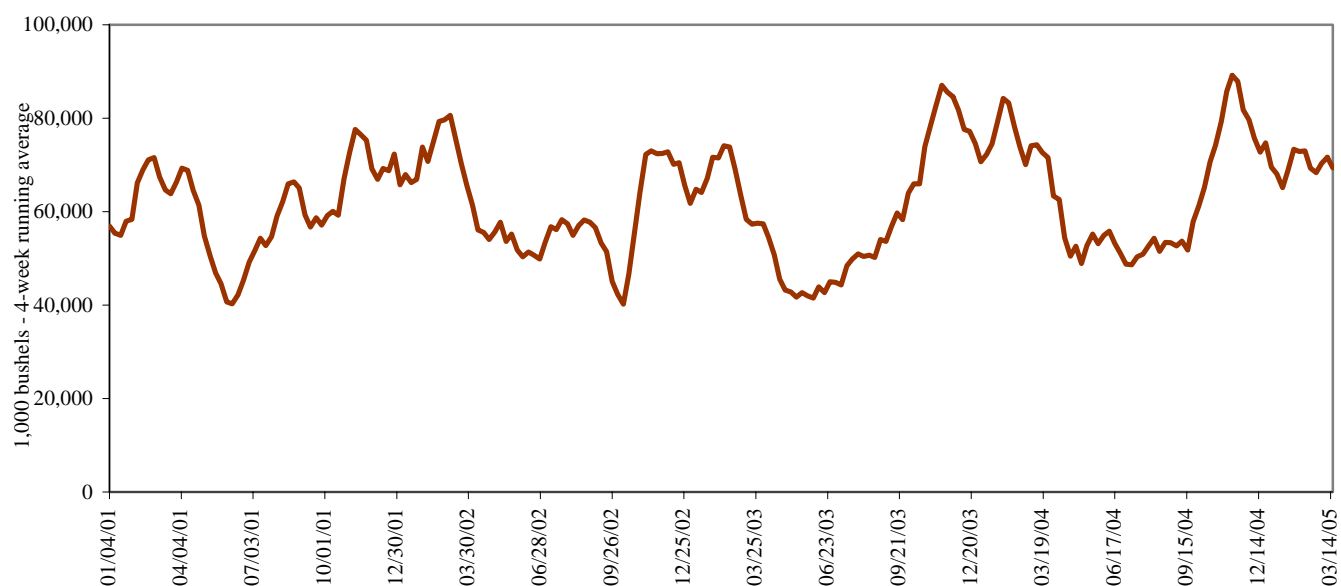
Table 14--Select U.S. port regions - grain inspections for export (1,000 metric tons)

Week ending	Pacific Region			Mississippi Gulf			Texas Gulf			Port Region total		
	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Pacific	Mississippi	Texas
03/17/05	277	168	186	124	463	297	211	0	0	631	885	211
2005 YTD	2,432	1,787	2,033	1,156	5,819	5,665	1,313	187	6	6,252	12,640	1,506
2004 YTD	2,604	1,918	1,424	1,598	7,621	4,479	2,422	44	7	5,946	13,698	2,472
2005 as % of 2004	93	93	143	72	76	126	54	429	86	105	92	61
2004 Total *	12,121	9,741	4,753	7,154	32,851	15,540	7,936	131	23	26,615	55,546	8,089

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service/USDA (www.usda.gov/gipsa); YTD: year-to-date; * includes 53rd week

The United States exports approximately one-quarter of the grain it produces. On average, it includes nearly 45 percent of U.S.-grown wheat, 35 percent of U.S.-grown soybeans, and 20 percent of the U.S.-grown corn. Over 60 percent of these U.S. export grain shipments departed through the Mississippi Gulf region in 2003.

Figure 10

U.S. grain inspected for export (wheat, corn, and soybeans)

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service/USDA (www.usda.gov/gipsa)

Ocean Transportation

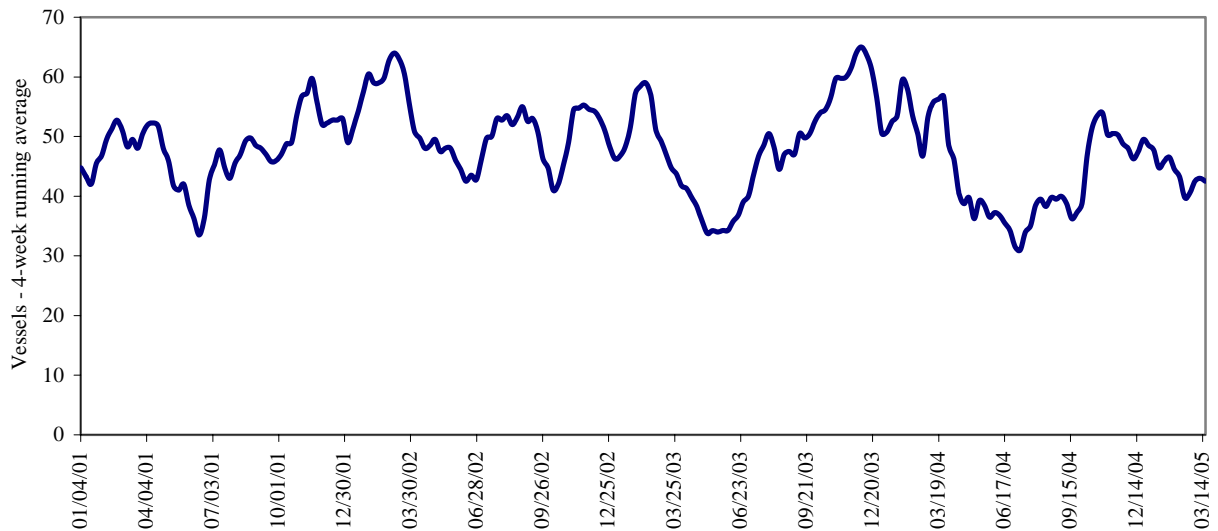
Table 15--Weekly port region grain ocean vessel activity (number of vessels)

Date	Gulf			Pacific Northwest	Vancouver B.C.
	In port	Loaded 7-days	Due next 10-days	In port	In port
3/17/2005	41	40	49	9	9
3/10/2005	29	39	53	6	6
2004 range	(10..43)	(25..73)	(38..96)	(4..16)	(0..18)
2004 avg.	24	45	61	9	6

Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Figure 11

Gulf Port grain vessel loading (past 7 days)



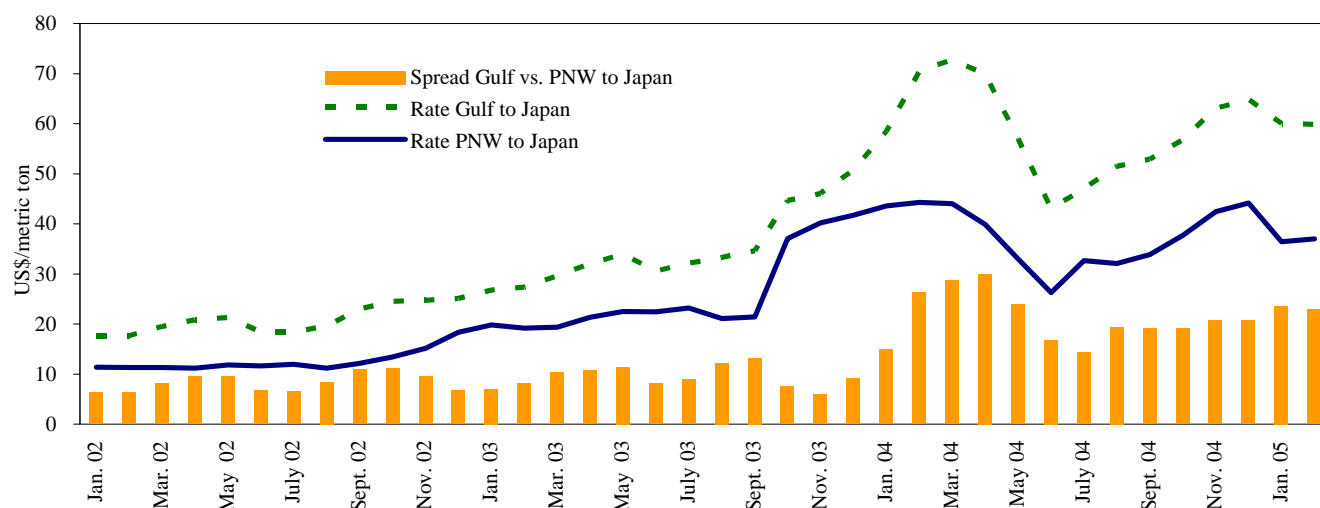
Source: Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Table 16--Quarterly ocean freight rates (average rates & percentage changes) (US\$/metric ton)

Countries/ regions	2004 4th qtr	2003 4th qtr	Percent change	Countries/ regions	2004 4th qtr	2003 4th qtr	Percent change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$60.83	\$41.83	45	Japan	---	---	---
China	\$56.35	\$45.50	24	Argentina/Brazil to			
N. Europe	---	---	---	Med. Sea	---	\$38.50	---
N. Africa	---	\$35.00	---	China	---	---	---
Med. Sea	---	\$31.75	---				

Source: Maritime Research, Inc. (www.maritime-research.com)

Figure 12

Grain vessel rates, U.S. to Japan

Source: Baltic Exchange (www.balticexchange.com)

Table 17--Ocean freight rates for selected shipments, week ending 03/19/05

Export region	Import region	Grain	Month	Volume loads (metric tons)	Freight rate (\$/metric ton)
U.S. Gulf	Japan	Hvy Grain	Mar 1/2	54,000	59.75
U.S. Gulf	Mauritania	Wheat	Mar 7/17	8,750	69.75
U.S. Gulf	Haiti*	Wheat	Feb 19/28	8,300	59.18
U.S. Gulf	Kenya or Sudan	Wheat	Mar 2/12	34,000	74.00 op 84.50
PNW	Kenya	Wheatflour	Mar 5/15	34,000	74.00
River Plate	Algeria	Hvy Grain	Mar 5/10	25,000	59.00
River Plate	Algeria	Wheat	Feb 5/15	25,000	59.50

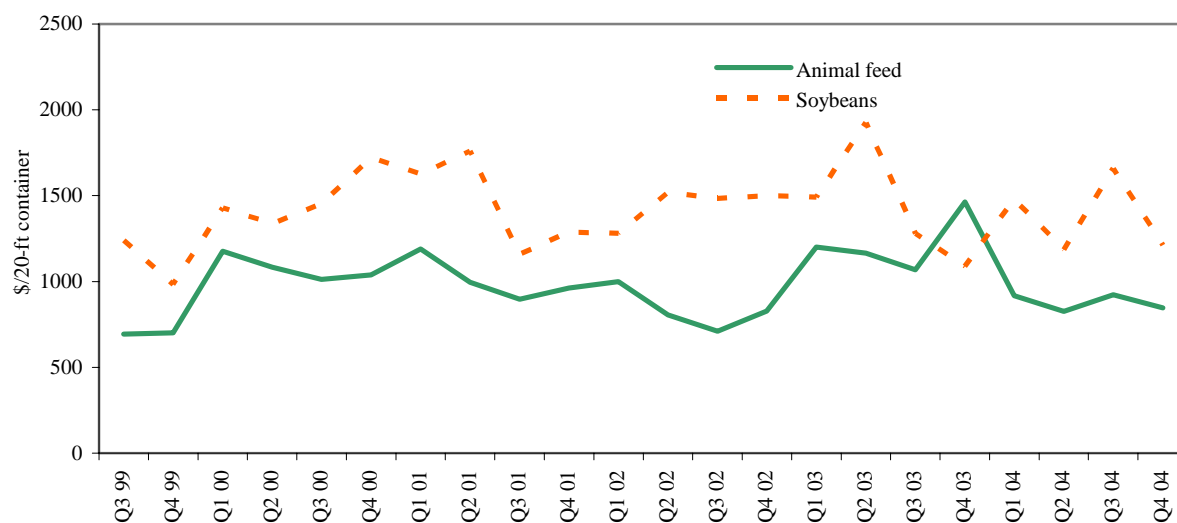
Rates shown are for metric ton (2,204.62 lbs. = 1 metric ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicates; op = option

*Most food aid from the United States is required to be shipped on U.S. flag vessels. The vessels are limited in availability resulting in higher rates. In addition, destinations receiving food aid generally lack adequate port unloading facilities, requiring the vessel to remain in port for a longer duration than normal.

Source: Maritime Research Inc. (www.maritime-research.com)

Figure 13

Weighted average rates¹ for containerized shipments of animal feed and soybeans to selected Asian countries



¹ Animal Feed: Busan-Korea (14%), Kaohsiung-Taiwan (24%), Tokyo-Japan (38%), Hong Kong (20%), Bangkok-Thailand (3%) and soybeans: Busan-Korea (4%), Keelung-Taiwan (53%), Tokyo-Japan (44%), Bangkok-Thailand (0.2%)

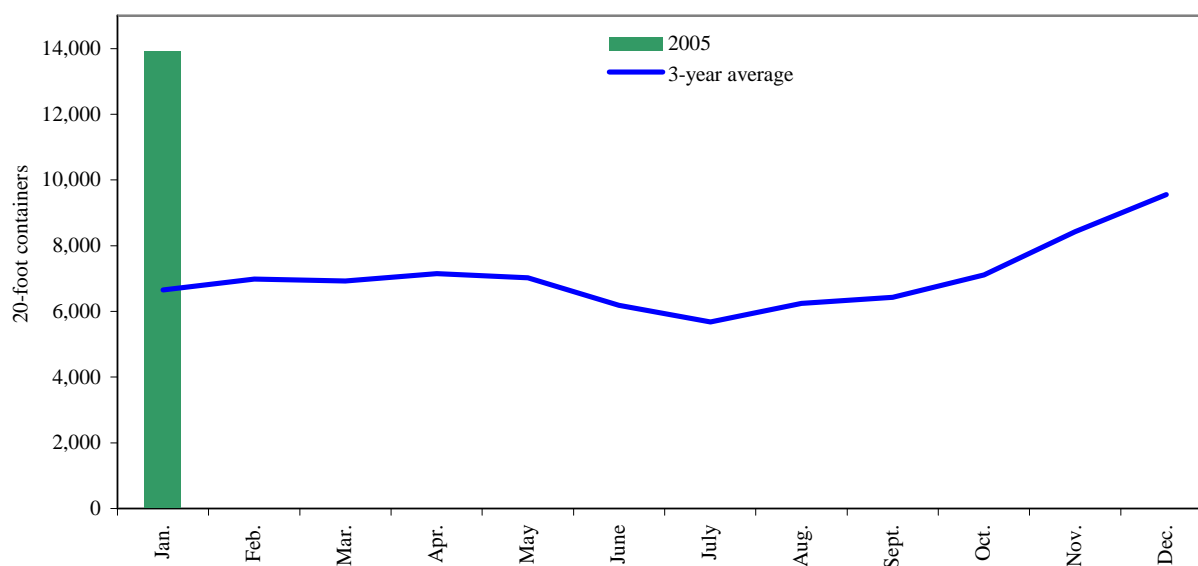
Quarter 4, 2004.

Source: Ocean Rate Bulletin, Transportation & Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

Container ocean freight rates – average rate per twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) weighted by shipping line market share and trade route.

Figure 14

Monthly shipments of containerized grain for 2005 compared with a 3-year average



Note: PIERs data is available with a lag of approximately 40 days

Source: Port Import Export Reporting Service (PIERS), *Journal of Commerce*

Contacts and Links

Contact Information

Coordinator		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 690-1328
Grain Transportation Indicators		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 690-1328
Rail		
Marvin Prater	marvin.prater@usda.gov	(202) 690-6290
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@usda.gov	(202) 720-4211
Barge Transportation		
Karl Hacker	karl.hacker@usda.gov	(202) 690-0152
Nicholas Marathon	nick.marathon@usda.gov	(202) 690-0331
Truck Transportation		
Karl Hacker	karl.hacker@usda.gov	(202) 690-0152
John Batson	john.batson@usda.gov	(202) 690-1312
Grain Exports		
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@usda.gov	(202) 720-4211
Ocean Transportation		
Surajudeen (Deen) Olowolayemo	surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov	(202) 690-1328
(Freight rates and vessels)		
April Taylor	april.taylor@usda.gov	(202) 690-1326
(Container rates)		
Johnny Hill	johnny.hill@usda.gov	(202) 720-4211
(Vessels)		

Subscription Information: To subscribe to the GTR for a weekly email copy, please contact Deen Olowolayemo at surajudeen.olowolayemo@usda.gov or 202-690-1328 (1303) (*printed copies are also available upon request*).

Related Websites

<i>Agricultural Container Indicators</i>	http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd2/agci/
<i>Ocean Rate Bulletin</i>	http://www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/Ocean/index.asp

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (Voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.